

## Tales from Tim's Recycling Bin – Clothing Conundrum

A few years back a friend took the 40 Bags Challenge. That's where you commit to removing 40 bags worth of household clutter within 40 days.

Turns out the number one thing in those bags was clothes.

She wasn't alone in having too many unworn and unwanted items. When other friends she inspired to take the challenge began going through their stuff – men and women found they had more clothes than they could possibly use. Those skinny jeans we delude ourselves into thinking will fit again. Or that impulse buy t-shirt with a slogan that was only funny years ago.



Those bags were dutifully donated to local charities. If you feel Challenged this year, please donate – charities need your old clothes.

Seems many of you are looking to offload clothes. It's the number one searched item on the Waste Wizard that's on our website and the Brooklyn Park HRG Recycling app.

A few of you have followed up to ask, "What if my clothes are unusable?" Simple Recycling the company that previously collected unusable clothing pulled out of Minnesota a few years back leaving us with few options.

Here's what I know. Larger organizations such as Goodwill and Salvation Army send unusable clothes made with natural fibers – say 100% cotton, linen, or wool, to the rag market. Label your donation bag "Rags" so they know not to waste time trying to sort it for re-sale.

Clothes made with synthetics or blends won't work as rags. Those items need to go in your trash.

Until next time, challenge yourself to clear the clutter my friends.